

***Trinodes hirtus* (F.) (Col.: Dermestidae) rediscovered in Suffolk.**

The very rare dermestid *Trinodes hirtus* was recorded by Fowler (1889) from only Windsor, Exeter and Richmond Park. It was later also found by Fred Fox "sparingly, on *Pinus sylvestris*" at Coddendam (Morley, 1899). Mr C. Johnson (pers. comm.) informs me that there is an old example from Dunham Park near Manchester in the J.R. Hardy collection at Manchester Museum and that the beetle is also known from Thame Park near Oxford. Donisthorpe (1938) reported it as not uncommon at Windsor and described how he reared specimens*. I am not aware of any recent published records.

Whilst examining an old, live Spanish Chestnut at Shrubland Park, Coddendam near Ipswich (TM 15) on 18th April 1980, I discovered a thriving colony of the distinctive mature larvae of the dermestid beetle *Ctesias serra* (F.) among cobwebs beneath large strips of the loose flaky bark. Mixed with these larvae were about half a dozen much smaller pale greyish larvae (evidently dermestid) with which I was unfamiliar. A larva identical to these was sieved with a single female *Aderus populneus* Pz. from the dry, red-rotten cobwebbed interior of an old oak in nearby woodland. These larvae were reared upon a pabulum of cobwebs and their desiccated contents, and in July, five examples of *Trinodes hirtus* emerged, thus providing valuable confirmation of Fox's nineteenth-century record. I thank Lord de Saumarez for allowing me to study on the Shrubland Estate, and my friend Colin Johnson for helpful information.

References: Donisthorpe, H.St.J.K. (1938). A preliminary list of the Coleoptera of Windsor Forest. *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 74: 25.

Fowler, W.W. (1889). The Coleoptera of the British Islands, 3: 364.

Morley, C. (1899). *The Coleoptera of Suffolk*. J.H. Keys, Plymouth.— DAVID NASH, 266 Colchester Road, Lawford, Essex CO11 2BU.

* It has continued ever since to be not uncommon on old oaks at Windsor, and was rediscovered in Richmond Park in 1983 by Mr P.M. Hammond.— A.A.A.

***Haploglossa picipennis* (Gyllenhal) (Col.: Staphylinidae) in the nests of Red Kites.**

H. picipennis was initially reported as a British species from specimens taken from buzzard nests collected in Devon and Wales (Joy 1930). For many years it was thought to be a great rarity and was accordingly awarded Red Data Book status (Shirt 1987), although the difficulties involved in examining the nests of birds of prey undoubtedly contributed to this belief. Recent studies of nest material from Scottish ospreys, however, have shown that it can be extremely abundant in its specialised habitat (Owen & Taylor 1989). It was also found to be widely-distributed, occurring in eleven of the fourteen osprey nests sampled. A record from a sparrowhawk's nest in Inverness-shire (Welch 1979) illustrates that it is quite catholic in its choice of hosts, although it does appear to be confined to the nests of raptorial birds.

There have been no records of *H. picipennis* in Wales since its discovery

in 1929 (Joy *loc. cit.*) and an attempt was made, therefore, to re-locate the species when an opportunity arose to examine nest-samples from red kites. Young kites are wing-tagged each year, prior to fledging, to enable researchers to investigate aspects of their ecology and population dynamics. During visits to tag the birds, a small sample (approximately 2500ml) of the nest-lining was collected from a total of eighteen nests. *H. picipennis* was found in eleven of these and was recorded from six vice-counties — Carmarthen, Brecon, Radnor, Montgomery, Cardigan and Merioneth. The number of beetles occurring in the samples was low compared to the osprey study — nine of the samples contained less than five specimens of *H. picipennis* and the other two nests contained 16 and 22 individuals respectively. It is thought that this may have been related to the long period of hot, dry weather that preceded the collection of the material in June and July 1989. Beetles living in the nest may have retreated to moister depths to avoid the drought and hence may not have been representatively sampled by partial removal of the nest-lining. *H. picipennis* was the most abundant species present in the samples with a total of fifty-three individuals in the eighteen nests. Twenty-three other beetles were taken, represented by fifteen specimens of *Atheta harwoodi* Williams, five *Atheta nigricornis* (Thomson) and single specimens of *Gnathonus buyssoni* Auzat, *Sciodrepoides fumata* (Spence) and *Carcinops pumilio* (Erichson).

Although *H. picipennis* has now been found most frequently in the nests of two of our rarest birds of prey, this is merely a reflection of the relative ease of obtaining nest-lining samples of these two species. It is most likely that the other tree-nesting raptors will also prove to be commonly acting as hosts, at least in areas such as mid-Wales and the Scottish Highlands, that have traditionally held good populations of birds of prey. A collaboration between licensed bird-ringers and coleopterists in suitable parts of Britain could demonstrate that *H. picipennis* is indeed a widespread species and also provide valuable information on the composition of raptor nest-faunas.

We are extremely grateful to P.E. Davis and A.V. Cross for collecting the kite-nest material, a noisome but much-appreciated task! Assistance with the identification of specimens was kindly given by D.C. Boyce.

References: Joy, N.H. (1930) Coleoptera in birds' nests, including a species of *Microglossa* new to Britain. *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **66**: 412-42.

Owen, J.A. & Taylor, S. (1989) *Haploglossa picipennis* (Gyllenhal) (Col.: Staphylinidae) in ospreys' nests. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **101**: 53-55.

Shirt, D.B. (ed.) (1987) *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. pp.167-168. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.

Welch, R.C. (1979). *Haploglossa picipennis* (Gyll.) (Col.: Staphylinidae), *Cryptophagus badius* Sturm and *C. lapponicus* Gyll. (Col.: Cryptophagidae) from a sparrowhawk's nest near Aviemore, Inverness. *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* **114**: 240.— A.P. FOWLES, c/o Nature Conservancy Council, Plas Gogerddan, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3EE.

J.A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 8PU.